

REMARKS

Applicant has now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Action of April 10, 2006. Previously pending claims 1, 7-10 and 14-16 were canceled, and new claims 17-32 added. Claims 17-32 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

Claims 1, 7-10 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. The Examiner stated the term "most of" is indefinite. These claims were canceled.

Previously pending independent claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Neal (US 5,768,819). Further, previously pending claims 8, 9, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal in view of Williams (US 6,009,654). New independent claims 17 and 26 were added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention without adding new matter.

Claim 17 claims "lock posts having teeth extending from one of the first and second assemblies for engaging the other of the first and second assemblies to secure the first and second assemblies together in a detachable relationship on opposite sides of the trigger guard..." The lock posts enable the two detachable side assemblies to be brought together on opposite sides of the trigger guard and pushed together to be joined together and subsequently detached from each other as described in the specification. Further, in this regard, the pins and pin receiving holes claimed in dependent claim 20 also enable such a detachable attachment.

Independent claim 17 also claims the abutment surfaces of the two side assemblies remaining spaced apart and disposed adjacent opposite sides of the trigger guard, with the lip extending only around a portion of the perimeter of the first assembly housing adjacent the first portion abutment surface. This enables the firearm to extend between the perimeters of the first and second housings when the first and second assemblies are secured to the firearm.

Independent claim 26 claims "a toothed member extending from one of the first and second assemblies for engaging the other of the first and second assemblies to secure the first and second assemblies together in a detachable relationship on opposite sides of the trigger guard...". The extending toothed member enables the abutment surfaces to remain in a spaced apart relationship when the safety device is secured to the firearm and subsequently detached from each other as described in the specification.

Both Neal and Williams teach a clamshell design having a hinged side permanently attaching the first and second assemblies together. Joining the two side assemblies together around a firearm cannot accommodate lock posts with teeth for securing the two assemblies together due to the arced path that such a hinged arrangement makes when closing. Further, the clamshell arrangements cannot accommodate pins extending between the two side assemblies which are received in pin receiving holes in both side assemblies for similar reasons.

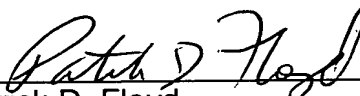
Accordingly, claim 17 and claims 18-25 depending therefrom, and claim 26 and claims 27-32 depending therefrom are patentable.

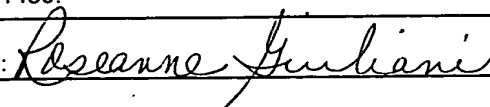
In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Patrick Floyd, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 10, 2006
Date


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